

## Abstract

The present disclosure is directed toward nesting of roles in a directory system. A nested role is a container of other roles. To nest, the DNs corresponding to the  
5 roles are added or encapsulated to form the nested role. A "nested" role can be configured to provide additional level of abstraction by nesting different role types---filtered, managed, enumerated or nested---whereby an entry can be a member of any one of the roles in the nesting. Nested roles allow a user to create roles that contain other roles. A nested role can be created with no members nested. Alternatively, a nested role  
10 may contain one or more members. The nesting or encapsulation is performed if (1) the target entry is within the scope of the role; and/or (2) target entry is within the scope of the role that causes the target entry to possess the nested role.

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